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## Confirmed Whooping Crane Sightings, 1942-1982

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*Nebraska Ornithologists' Union*

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### CONFIRMED WHOOPING CRANE SIGHTINGS, 1942-1982

Since 1983, *The Nebraska Bird Review* has published the USFWS Whooping Crane migration report for both spring and fall. The following is data provided by Wally Jobman of USFWS on confirmed sightings of Whooping Cranes in Nebraska. The period covered is 1942 through 1982. It is hoped that the account of the sightings here will aid crane researchers.

The USFWS definition of a confirmed sighting is noted in *NBR* 56:79. Researchers interested in other crane data should consult issues of the *NBR* starting in 1983 for complete data since that period. For further information, interested parties should contact Wally Jobman, USFWS, Fish and Wildlife Enhancement, NE/KS Field Office, 203 W. Second Street, Grand Island, NE 68801.

Date	Number/Age	County	Exact Location Noted
4/7/42	3 birds	Dawson	Lexington.
4/4/43	1 birds	Buffalo	4 miles west of Kearney bridge on Platte River.
Fall 1946	not recorded	Dawson	3 miles east of Gothenburg.
11/13-14/46	not recorded	Garden	near Lewellen.
4/19-20/47	4 adults; 1 imm.	Lincoln	3 miles east of North Platte.
10/13-19/49	2 birds	Garden	Head of Lake McConaughy.
5/4/50	1 bird	Dawson	near Platte River at Overton.
5/20-6/18/50	1 bird	Phelps	Bertrand.
7/16-23/50	1 bird	Morrill	Bridgeport.
4/25/57	3 birds	Keya Paha	2.5 miles west of Meadville on Niobrara River.
4/28/58	3 birds	Lincoln	south and west of North Platte.
10/26/59	2 birds	Phelps	6 miles south, 5 miles east of Overton.

Date	Number/Age	County	Exact Location Noted
10/17/60	3 birds	Harlan	2 miles south, 2 miles west of Wilcox. T4N, R17W, S2 & 3. Family group.
10/23-25/64	2 adults; 2 juvenile	Keith	5.5 miles east of Lewellen, head of Lake McConaughy.
4/14-19/65	2 adults; 2 juvenile	Logan	2.5 miles south, 1 mile east of Gandy. Roost T17N, R26W, S35; fed T17N, R27W, S28.
10/19/65	3 birds	Rock	north of Bassett on Niobrara River.
10/6/66	2 birds	Custer	6 miles west, 2.5 miles south of Merna. T17N, R22W, S18. Geiser farm.
10/20-21/66	3 adults; 2 juvenile	Hamilton	6 miles northeast of Phillips, Platte River. T12N, R7W, S29 and T11N, R8W, S14.
10/11/67	2 birds	Gosper	3 miles south of Bertrand, Peterson WPA. Probable T6N, R21W, S13.
4/10/68	2 birds	Rock	16 miles south, 2 miles east of Bassett (wet meadow).
10/3/69	1 bird	Rock	.5 mile west of Carns, flying east along Niobrara River. Likely T32N, R19W, S24.
4/10/70	2 birds	Franklin	4 miles south of Upland.
10/31/71	5 birds	Sherman	4 miles west of Rockville.
10/26-11/10/71	2 adults; 1 juvenile	Kearney	3 miles south, 5 miles east of Axtell. T6N, R15W, S19, SE 1/4.
11/3/72	2 adults; 1 juvenile	Kearney	2 miles south, 4 miles west of Minden.
4/11/73	2 birds	Franklin	3 miles south, 1 mile east of Upland. T4N, R14W, S35 or 36.
5/3/73	2 birds	Blaine	6 miles east of Purdum, North Loup River. T24N, R25W, S15, NE 1/4.
10/19/73	3 birds	Adams	1.5 miles south, 1 mile east of Kenesaw. T17N, R12W, S2.
4/8/74	4 birds	Buffalo	4 miles north, .5 mile west of Shelton. T10N, R13W, S2 and 11.
10/25/74	2 birds	Phelps	3 miles north, 1.5 miles east of Funk. T6N, R17W, S2.
10/29/74	8 birds	Brown	13 miles north, 5 miles east of Ainsworth on Niobrara River. T32N, R20W, S19.
10/29/74	3 adults; 1 juvenile	Thomas	3 miles west of Halsey on Middle Loup River. T22N, R25W, S8.
10/31-11/1/74	2 birds	Kearney	2 miles east of Minden I-80 exchange on Platte River. T8N, R14W, S16.
4/12-14/75	2 birds	Blaine	9 miles east of Brewster on North Loup River. T23N, R21W, S25.
4/17-19/75	9 birds	Phelps	Funk Basin, 3 miles north 1.5 miles east of Funk. When hazed 7 to Platte River, other 2 went back near Funk Basin. Two hazed again, went to Platte River.
4/20/75	5 birds	Phelps	.5 mile east of Odessa bridge on Platte River. T8N, R17W, S22.
4/4-5/76	2 birds	Hitchcock	West end of Swanson Reservoir.
10/23/76	2 adults; 1 juvenile	Frontier	Hugh Butler Reservoir, 10 miles north, 2 miles west of McCook.
3/29/77	1 bird	Buffalo	2 miles east of Hwy. 10 Platte River Bridge. West end of Audubon Sanctuary.
10/23-27/77	2 birds	Buffalo	T11N, R13W, S33. 7 miles north, 2.5 miles west of Shelton.
11/3/77	3 adults; 1 juvenile	Rock	T32N, R20 W, S22, SE 1/4, NE 1/4, on Niobrara River.
11/4-7/77	1 bird	Cherry	T30N, R28W, S22, SW 3/4, Valentine NWR.
10/17/78	4 birds	Furnas	4 miles north, 5 miles west of Oxford. T4N, R21W, S7, SE 1/4.
10/22-23/78	2 birds	Cherry	14 miles west, 2 miles south of Merriman. T34N, R40W, S23, NE 1/4, SE 1/4.

Date	Number/Age	County	Exact Location Noted
10/23-25/78	5 birds	Grant	2 miles east, 2 miles north of Whitman. T24N, R36W, S10, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ .
4/8-9/79	4 birds	Phelps	6 miles northwest of Holdrege. Moses Hill Basin. T6N, R19W, S3.
4/16/79	2 adults; 1 juvenile	Cheyenne	4 miles south, 9.5 miles east of Gurley. T15N, R48W, S14, S $\frac{1}{2}$ .
10/30/79	7 birds (1 young)	Cherry	.25 mile upstream from Cornell Dam on Niobrara River. T34N, R27W, S34, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , [sic].
4/2/80	2 birds	Kearney	5.5 miles south, 2 miles west of Minden. T5N, R15W, S11, W $\frac{1}{2}$ .
4/7/80	7 birds	Phelps	1.5 miles north, .5 mile east of Funk. T6N, R17W, S15.
4/13/80	7 birds	Cherry	Along eastern boundary of Valentine NWR. T29N, R26W, S23, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ .
4/17/80	2 birds	Buffalo/ Kearney	Audubon Refuge on Platte River southeast of Kearney.
4/18/80	2 birds	Buffalo/ Kearney	1 mile east of Minden exchange (I-80) on Platte River.
4/19/80	7 birds	Buffalo	Flying along Platte River straight south of Kearney.
4/3/81	3 birds	Cherry	2 miles west of Wood Lake
10/19-20/81	2 birds	Sherman	3 miles east of Rockville on Middle Loup River.
10/22-23/81	3 birds	Cherry	Gordon Creek. T29N, R31W.
10/23-24/81	3 birds	Custer	Pond on Wood River drainage near Oconto.
10/23/81	2 birds	Cherry	Duck Lake. T26N, R29W, S1.
10/23-24/81	2 birds	Buffalo	9 miles west of Pleasanton on South Loup River. Possibly same 2 as Duck Lake sighting. T12N, R17W, S26, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ .
4/15-17/82	2 birds	Custer	8 miles south, .5 mile west of Arnold. T16N, R25W, S32, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ .
10/12/82	1 bird	Adams	5 miles west of Hastings with Sandhill Cranes.
10/29/82	3 birds	Rock	Niobrara River, 3 miles west of Carns.
10/29/82	3 birds	Clay	1 mile northeast of Fairfield, Hissinger Lagoon, T6N, R7W, S34.
10/29/82	not recorded	Rock	3.5 miles east of Bassett north of Hwy. 20.
10/29-30/82	4 birds	Brown	Niobrara River, 2 miles upstream from Norden bridge.
10/30-11/1/82	3 birds	Holt	45 miles north of Burwell near Dora Lake. Family group.
11/1-2/82	5 birds (1 juvenile)	Brown	12 miles south of Ainsworth.